

---

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6480**

---

**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research & Development  
(originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Haugen, Brown and  
Keiser; by request of Department of Transportation)

READ FIRST TIME 01/30/06.

1       AN ACT Relating to apprenticeship utilization requirements for  
2 department of transportation public works projects; amending RCW  
3 39.04.320; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A well-trained construction trades work  
6 force is critical to the ability of the state of Washington to  
7 construct public works. Studies of the state's work force highlight  
8 population trends that, without a concerted effort to offset them, will  
9 lead to an inadequate supply of skilled workers in the construction  
10 industry. State government regularly constructs public works. The  
11 efficient and economical construction of public works projects will be  
12 harmed if there is not an ample supply of trained construction workers.  
13 Apprenticeship training programs are particularly effective in  
14 providing training and experience to individuals seeking to enter or  
15 advance in the work force. By providing for apprenticeship utilization  
16 on public works projects, state government can create opportunities for  
17 training and experience that will help assure that a trained work force  
18 will be available, including returning veterans, in sufficient numbers  
19 in the future for the construction of public works. Furthermore, the

1 state of Washington hereby establishes its intent to assist returning  
2 veterans through programs such as the "helmets to hardhats" program,  
3 which is administered by the center for military recruitment,  
4 assessment, and veterans employment. It is the state's intent to  
5 assist returning veterans with apprenticeship placement career  
6 opportunities, in order to expedite the transition from military  
7 service to the construction work force.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 39.04.320 and 2005 c 3 s 3 are each amended to read as  
9 follows:

10 (1) From January 1, 2005, and thereafter, for all public works  
11 estimated to cost one million dollars or more, all specifications shall  
12 require that no less than fifteen percent of the labor hours be  
13 performed by apprentices.

14 (2) Awarding agency directors may adjust the requirements of this  
15 section for a specific project for the following reasons:

16 (a) The demonstrated lack of availability of apprentices in  
17 specific geographic areas;

18 (b) A disproportionately high ratio of material costs to labor  
19 hours, which does not make feasible the required minimum levels of  
20 apprentice participation;

21 (c) Participating contractors have demonstrated a good faith effort  
22 to comply with the requirements of chapter 3, Laws of 2005; or

23 (d) Other criteria the awarding agency director deems appropriate,  
24 which are subject to review by the office of the governor.

25 (3) This section applies only to public works contracts awarded by  
26 the state. However, this section does not apply to contracts awarded  
27 by state four-year institutions of higher education(~~(7)~~) or state  
28 agencies headed by a separately elected public official(~~(7 or the~~  
29 ~~department of transportation)~~)).

30 (4)(a) The department of general administration must provide  
31 information and technical assistance to affected agencies and collect  
32 the following data from affected agencies for each project covered by  
33 this section:

34 (i) The name of each apprentice and apprentice registration number;

35 (ii) The name of each project;

36 (iii) The dollar value of each project;

37 (iv) The date of the contractor's notice to proceed;

1 (v) The number of apprentices and labor hours worked by them,  
2 categorized by trade or craft;

3 (vi) The number of journey level workers and labor hours worked by  
4 them, categorized by trade or craft; and

5 (vii) The number, type, and rationale for the exceptions granted  
6 under subsection (2) of this section.

7 (b) The department of labor and industries shall assist the  
8 department of general administration in providing information and  
9 technical assistance.

10 (5) At the request of the senate labor, commerce, research and  
11 development committee, the house of representatives commerce and labor  
12 committee, or their successor committees, and the governor, the  
13 department of general administration and the department of labor and  
14 industries shall compile and summarize the agency data and provide a  
15 joint report to both committees. The report shall include  
16 recommendations on modifications or improvements to the apprentice  
17 utilization program and information on skill shortages in each trade or  
18 craft.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2007.

--- END ---