

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6525

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Transportation, January 16, 2006

**Title:** An act relating to design-build construction for transportation projects.

**Brief Description:** Modifying transportation project design-build provisions.

**Sponsors:** Senators Benton, Oke, Berkey, Mulliken, Benson, Esser, Haugen and Sheldon; by request of Department of Transportation.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 1/17/06. [DP]

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Jacobsen, Vice Chair; Poulsen, Vice Chair; Benson, Ranking Minority Member; Benton, Berkey, Eide, Esser, Finkbeiner, Kastama, Mulliken, Sheldon, Spanel, Swecker and Weinstein.

**Staff:** Hayley Gamble (786-7452)

**Background:** Design-build construction is a contracting technique that allows the owner of a project to contract with a single entity for the design and construction of a project. Some construction work can often begin before final design is complete, providing opportunity for cost savings and expedited project delivery. Traditional design-bid-build contracts require design to be completed before the construction portion of the project is awarded.

Current law allows the Department of Transportation (DOT) to use design-build construction if construction activities are highly specialized, efficiency opportunities through the use of a single entity for design and construction are greater, or significant savings in project delivery time would be realized. A design-build project must also be over ten million dollars. This law expires on April 30, 2008.

DOT is currently using design-build on three large projects and plans to use this process on other upcoming projects.

**Summary of Bill:** The design-build construction expiration date of April 30, 2008, is removed, allowing DOT to continue using this provision.

DOT may also use the design-build process on up to five pilot projects costing between two and ten million dollars. DOT must evaluate these projects to determine if benefits are gained from using design-build on projects of this size.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This measure can enhance the delivery of some of the new transportation projects. It encourages innovation and some states have seen benefits from using design-build on small projects. Absolute dollar savings are not always present, but there are clear time savings when using design build.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Who Testified:** PRO: Rick Smith; WSDOT. CON: No one.