

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6853

---

As of February 5, 2008

**Title:** An act relating to public works projects.

**Brief Description:** Regarding public works projects.

**Sponsors:** Senators Fraser, Brandland, Franklin, Kilmer and McAuliffe.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Ways & Means: 2/06/08.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Staff:** Brian Sims (786-7431)

**Background:** The Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) was created by the Legislature in 1985 to assist local governments and special purpose districts with infrastructure projects. The Public Works Board (PWB), within the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED), reviews applications for low-interest loans from the account to finance the repair, replacement, or improvement of the following public works systems: bridges, roads, water and sewage systems, and solid waste and recycling facilities. All local governments except port districts and school districts are eligible to receive loans. The PWAA appropriation is made in the capital budget, but the PWB must submit the recommended project list to the Legislature annually in separate legislation for approval. Legislative approval is not required for pre-construction activities, planning loans, or emergency loans.

**Summary of Bill:** The requirement for legislative approval of PWB recommended projects is eliminated; and replaces that end-of-the-process legislative oversight with legislative direction at the beginning of the process when funds are appropriated. The Legislature is allowed to specify categories of local infrastructure projects and the amounts and policy goals tied to each category. The Legislature is prohibited from specifying individual projects for individual jurisdictions. The limit of 15 percent of the appropriation for emergency loans, preconstruction loans, and capital facility planning is removed. The public works project definition is changed by including categories of local infrastructure projects specified in the capital budget, and PWB reporting requirements are revised.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2009.