

First Extraordinary Session, 2005

SENATE BILL NO. 56

BY SENATOR ELLINGTON

PUBLIC CONTRACTS. Authorizes the Department of Transportation and Development to utilize the design-build method for certain transportation projects. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact amend and reenact R.S. 48:250.2(A) and (C), relative to contracts let
3 by the Department of Transportation and Development; to authorize the Department
4 of Transportation and Development to utilize the design-build method to construct
5 transportation projects in certain areas; to remove certain limitations of the design-
6 build program; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 48:250.2(A) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
9 follows:

10 §250.2. Design-build contracts; administration; **authorized projects**

11 A. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary or the requirements of this Part,
12 if the secretary determines it is in the best interest of the taxpayers, the Department
13 of Transportation and Development, ~~with approval of the House and Senate~~
14 ~~transportation, highways and public works committees, may formulate, develop, and~~
15 ~~implement a pilot program to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of combining~~ **may**
16 **combine** the design and construction phases of a transportation facility, including
17 but not limited to highways, interchanges, or bridges into a single contract.

* * *

C. ~~This pilot program shall be limited in duration to allow use of the design-build method to construct the~~ **The department is authorized to utilize the design-build method for the following projects:**

(1) The new Mississippi River Bridge at St. Francisville (connection to US 61) including approach structures and connecting roadways, which project is included in the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development program.

(2) Any transportation infrastructure project in an area impacted by a hurricane, including those areas where infrastructure is adversely impacted by increased population and traffic as a result of a hurricane.

(3) Additionally, the secretary may also select an additional project to utilize the design-build method; One additional project selected by the secretary; however, the cost of the additional project shall not exceed five million dollars.

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Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sherri H. Breaux.

DIGEST

Present law authorizes the secretary of DOTD, with approval of the House and Senate transportation committees, to implement a pilot program to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of combining the design and construction phases of a transportation facility, including but not limited to highways, interchanges, or bridges into a single contract.

Proposed law deletes the requirement for approval of the House and Senate transportation committees and removes pilot program limitation of the design-build program.

Present law limits the department to utilizing the design-build method to construct the new Mississippi River Bridge at St. Francisville (connection to US 61), including approach structures and connecting roadways, and one additional project selected by the secretary; however, the cost of the additional project shall not exceed \$5 million.

Proposed law retains present law but additionally authorizes the department to utilize the design-build method for any transportation infrastructure project in an area impacted by a hurricane, including areas where infrastructure is adversely impacted by increased population and traffic due to a hurricane.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 48:250.2(A) and (C))