



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Contracting transparency bill makes government more efficient**

*SB 254A establishes best practices for public contracting in order to make effective use of taxpayers' money*

SALEM—Today the Oregon Senate approved legislation that will make state and local governments' use of taxpayer money more efficient by establishing a balanced and standard framework for public contracting. SB 254A, which passed on a unanimous vote, will require state and local agencies to use standardized rules when awarding contracts under the "Construction Management/General Contractor" (CMGC) method.

"Taxpayers expect us to make effective use of their money, and these new rules will help ensure that contracts are open and fair to get the best value," said Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield). "SB 254A improves the CMGC bidding process by making it more flexible and accountable."

State and local governments increasingly use the CMGC method to award contracts for large value projects and structures with historical value. SB 254A is the product of a legislative work group that came together in order to assess the ramifications of CMGC's rising popularity as an alternative to traditional 'low-bid' contracting. The bill responds to concerns that the CMGC process does not provide for sufficient transparency of the contracting process by creating a standardized framework and set of rules that agencies will use.

"We are continuing our effort to deliver services more efficiently and with greater savings for taxpayers," said Senator Alan Bates (D-Medford). "This bill is a great example of how we can continue to strengthen government efficiency and cut waste."

The bill codifies some exemptions from bidding processes that already exist in practice, while ensuring that agencies make the best use of taxpayer money by creating competitive, fair bidding through CMGC.

"SB 254A takes much-needed steps toward transparency, accountability, and leveling the playing field in how state and local contracts are awarded," said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland).

SB 254A will now go the Oregon House of Representatives for further work and consideration.

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