Date of Hearing: June 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
SB 935 (Choi) – As Introduced January 29, 2026

Policy Committee: Local Government Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill makes permanent the authorization for local agencies to use the design-build contracting method by repealing the January 1, 2031, sunset date.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No state costs.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

> [This bill] ensures that local agencies can continue using the design-build procurement method, which has streamlined project delivery, reduced costs, and encouraged innovation in public works for decades. By removing the existing 2031 sunset date, this bill provides long-term certainty for agencies planning critical infrastructure projects and avoids unnecessary disruptions to an effective contracting process.

This bill is sponsored by the Design-Build Institute of America – Western Pacific Region, the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the Rural County Representatives of California.

2) **Background.** The Legislature began granting design-build authority in the early 1990's, and has typically done so with specified parameters, such as the duration of the authority, the types of agencies allowed to use it, the types of projects for which it can be used, cost thresholds, and specified procedures for preparing and awarding contracts. Over the years, this resulted in numerous statutes in various code sections, which created confusion for public agencies and contractors alike.

To consolidate these statutes, SB 785 (Wolk), Chapter 931, Statutes of 2014, enacted uniform provisions authorizing the Department of General Services, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and specified local agencies to utilize the design-build procurement process for specified public works projects until January 1, 2025. Since SB 785 was enacted, the Legislature has authorized numerous additional local agencies or types of local agencies to use SB 785 design-build authority. AB 400 (Blanca Rubio), Chapter 201, Statutes of 2023, extended the sunset date on SB 785 from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2031.

This bill repeals the sunset date on the authorization provided in SB 785 and extended by AB 400, for cities, counties, and specified special districts, transit agencies, water districts, and others to use the design-build method for specified public works contracts over $1 million.

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